

and who was the grandfather of Nathaniel, the American immigrant.

The above wills and records have also thrown much light upon the families of some of these earliest Chickerings, and it is the purpose of this work—first, to set forth in full all that is now known regarding the early English connections of the American Chickerings,—second, from this earliest known English ancestor to trace the line of descent of that branch of the Chickerings which contains the family of the well known Jonas Chickering,—and last, to assemble in compact form all the ancestors, under whatever name, of Mary Chickering Nichols, grand daughter of Jonas Chickering.

For the exemplification of these descents and relationships the chart form has been adopted as least confusing and most satisfactory,—and it will be noted that Chart VII constitutes, in a way, an index chart to the other six.

This search has produced unusually full results, and has brought into view a number of the more prominent individuals of colonial and later times. It is very seldom that so large a proportion of all the ancestors whose blood runs in the veins of a single individual can be located with residences in so compact an area as is the case with those from whom Mrs. Nichols is descended. It can be said that one might start from Boston in an automobile and in a single day pass through the home town of practically all of the two hundred and seventy men and women who appear on Chart VII, as her progenitors, while many interesting pages could be filled with the experiences and achievements of a goodly number of these who attained prominence in the religious, military, civic, professional, and social affairs of early New England.

Take, for example, the seventy-four great-great-great-great-great grandparents of Mrs. Nichols whose names we chance